

## **Appendix 2**

### **Kansas Public Health Information eXchange (PHIX)**

The Kansas Public Health Information eXchange (PHIX) is a secure, web-based communication system designed to facilitate the rapid exchange of information between the State of Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and public health and safety officials throughout the state.

The PHIX system allows users to send, receive and discuss information of public health importance in a secure, confidential environment. It also allows for the rapid notification of any and all users in the event of a public health emergency, when the timely distributing of recommendations on investigation, prevention and treatment is critical.

Only select groups of people are eligible to become PHIX users. Currently, State and County Health Department officials are permitted to register for PHIX, as well as select members of law enforcement and hospital staff. Other members of Public Health, Public and Private Medicine, Emergency Management and Law Enforcement will be added in the coming months.

PHIX has four primary components:

1. Registration / User Profile
2. Notifications
3. Reports
4. Forums

#### **1. REGISTRATION / USER PROFILE**

In order to use the PHIX system, you must be a registered user. The online registration application gathers information on each user that is used to verify the identity and affiliation of the user for security purposes.

Registration is necessary so that sensitive, confidential information that is posted to the PHIX website is seen only by those for whom the information is intended. Information gathered through the registration form becomes part of the user profile.

The user may update their profile at any time, in order to reflect the most current contact information, or to change their notification preferences.

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### **(Continued)**

#### **2. NOTIFICATIONS**

Health Alert Reports are confidential documents. Therefore, when a report has been posted to the website, PHIX users are sent a notification, and asked to log in to the website to read the full report.

When a person registers for the PHIX system, they are asked to specify how they would like to be notified when a report has been posted to the website. A person may choose to be notified of the various reports via email, pager, or fax.

Once the person becomes a registered user, he or she may change the notification preferences by logging in to the website and updating the user profile.

#### **3. REPORTS**

Reports, also called Health Alert Reports, are documents that are posted to the PHIX website, that contain public health information that KDHE would like to share with other users throughout the state.

These reports have three levels of priority - Alert (urgent attention required), Advisory (moderate attention required) and Update (informational only, no immediate action required).

Reports posted to the website are NOT public information (unless specifically stated), and often contain sensitive or confidential information.

PHIX Users are notified via email, fax or pager whenever a report meeting their notification specifications is posted to the site.

Registered users may also post reports to PHIX on a 24/7 basis. The PHIX administrator monitors all postings.

#### **4. FORUMS**

A forum is a place for PHIX users to discuss public health issues with one another. It operates as a "bulletin board" for users to ask questions, share information, or comment on reports posted on PHIX.

Forum activity is monitored by the PHIX Administrator for appropriate use.

Users may request a special forum for the discussion of a specific topic by contacting the PHIX Administrator at (785) 296-6552.